

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296420

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ORIGIN AID-59

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EAID, JO, US

SUBJECT: WEATHER MODIFICATION PROPOSAL

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 272367; (B) AMMAN 6408

1. WORKING GROUP (WG) OF NSC UNDERSECRETARIES COMMITTEE
MET ON NOV. 30 TO REVIEW JORDANIAN WEATHER MODIFICATION
STUDY PROPOSAL FORMULATED BY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
AND TO MAKE GENERAL DETERMINATION RE PROVISION OF AID
ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION.

2. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION, IN WHICH
YOUR VIEWS (REFTEL B) WERE PRESENTED AND AIRED FULLY, DE-
CISION WAS AGAINST NORTH DAKOTA PROPOSAL ON TECHNICAL
GROUNDS. IN WG'S VIEW, NORTH DAKOTA PROPOSAL WOULD NOT
PROVIDE PROPER SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR DECIDING WHETHER AN
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PAGE 02 STATE 296420

OPERATIONAL WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM SHOULD BE MOUNTED

IN JORDAN, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE U.S., OTHER DONORS
OR JORDAN ITSELF IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT SUCH A PROGRAM.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL QUESTION OF U.S. AS-
SISTANCE TO JORDAN FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION EXPERIMENTS,
WG CONCLUDED THAT UNCERTAINTY OF TECHNOLOGY COUPLED WITH
POTENTIAL FOR ADVERSE REACTIONS FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
(E.G., SYRIA, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA) MAKE IT UNSUITABLE FOR

AID BILATERAL SUPPORT. THIS REACHED WITH FULL RECOGNITION
OF REPORTS OF SUCCESSFUL (AND SELF-FINANCED) ISRAELI
WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES. RECOMMEND THAT, IF DE-
SIRE, JORDAN PURSUE MATTER OF EXPERIMENTAL (AND ANY
SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONAL) PROGRAMS THROUGH THE WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO) TO PLACE THEM UNDER AN
INTERNATIONAL UMBRELLA. THIS WILL HELP ENSURE SCIENTIFIC
QUALITY OF PROPOSALS.

4. FYI: AMONG GROUNDS FOR REJECTION ARE THAT U.S. WOULD
NOT WISH TO RAISE HOPES FOR OPERATIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WE
HAVE NO ASSURANCE WE COULD SUPPORT. ALSO, IF U.S. WERE
TO RESPOND POSITIVELY, DOOR WOULD BE OPENED TO POSSIBLE
FLOOD OF REQUESTS FOR PROGRAMS OF A QUASI-OPERATIONAL
NATURE IN AREA OF TECHNOLOGY STILL LARGELY IN EXPERIMENTAL
STAGE. FURTHERMORE, POLITICAL/LEGAL ISSUES ARE APT TO BE
RAISED WITH REGARD TO "STEALING RAIN" IN A DRY AREA, AND
RE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER NE COUNTRIES FROM
JORDANIAN CLOUD SEEDING ARRANGEMENT. SUGGESTION TO IN-
VOLVE WMO IS LARGELY BASED ON THESE POLITICAL AND LEGAL
CONSIDERATIONS. IF JORDAN WISHES TO PROCEED ON ITS OWN,
OR THROUGH WMO, U.S. WILLING TO PROVIDE LIST OF REPUTABLE
PRIVATE CONSULTANTS. UNDER WMO SPONSORED PROJECT, WMO
COULD CALL ON U.S. OR OTHER EXPERTS FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE.
WE SHALL FORWARD TO YOU MINUTES OF THE WG MEETING, WHICH
GIVES DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE
CONCLUSIONS. END FYI KISSINGER

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